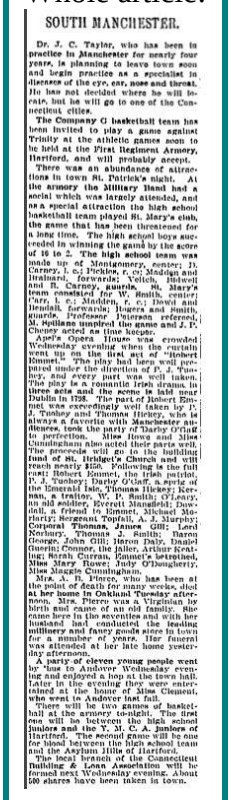
Apel's Opera house site of Irish play

In a Courant news listing dated March 19, 1897, among other news was this review of a play at Apel's Opera house. Here is a transcription of that excerpt: Apel's Opera House was crowded Wednesday evening when the curtain went up on the first act of "Robert Emmet." The play had been well prepared under the direction of P.J. Tuohey, and every part was well taken. The play is a romantic Irish drama in three acts and the scene is laid near Dublin in 1798, The part of Robert Emmet was exceedingly well taken by P.J. Tuohey and Thomas Hickey, who is always a favorite with Manchester audiences, took the party of Darby O'Gaff to perfection. Miss Rowe and Miss Cunningham also acted their parts well. The proceeds will go to the building fund of St. Bridget's Church and will reach nearly $150. Following is the full cast: Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot, P.J. Tuohey; Darby O'Gaff, a sprig of the Emerald Isle, Thomas hickey; Kernan, a traitor, W.P. Smith; O'Leary, an old soldier, Everett Mansfield; Dowdall, a friend to Emmet, Michael Moriarty; Sergeant Topfall, A.J. Murphy; Corporal Thomas, James Gill; Lord Norbury, Thomas J. Smith; Baron George, John Gill; Baron Daly, Daniel Guerin; Connor, the jailer, Arthur Keating; Sarah Currant, Emmet's betrothed, Miss Mary Rowe; Judy O'Dougherty, Miss Maggie Cunningham.

More about Apel's opera house, including a short video, on the Reprints page of the Historical Society's website www.manchesterhistory.org.

Whole article:



SOUTH MANCHESTER.

Dr. J. C. Taylor, who has been in practice in Manchester for nearly four years, is planning to leave town soon and begin practice as a specialist in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He has not decided where he will locate, but he will go to one of the Connecticut cities.

The Company G basketball team has been invited to play a game against Trinity at the athletic games soon to be held at the First Regiment Armory, Hartford, and will probably accept.

There was an abundance of attractions in town St. Patrick's night. At the armory the Military Band had a social which was largely attended, and as a special attraction the high school basketball team played St. Mary's club, the game that has been threatened for a long time. The high school boys succeeded in winning the game by the score of 16 to 2. The high school team was made up of Montgomery, center; D. Carney, l. c.; Pickles, r. c.; Maddigan and Brainard, forwards; Veitch, Bidwell and R. Carney, guards. St. Mary's team consisted for W. Smith, center; Carr, l. c.; Madden, r. c.; Dowd and Donlall, forwards; Rogers and Smith, guards. Professor Peterson referred, M. Sullane umpired the game and J. P. Cheney acted as time keeper.

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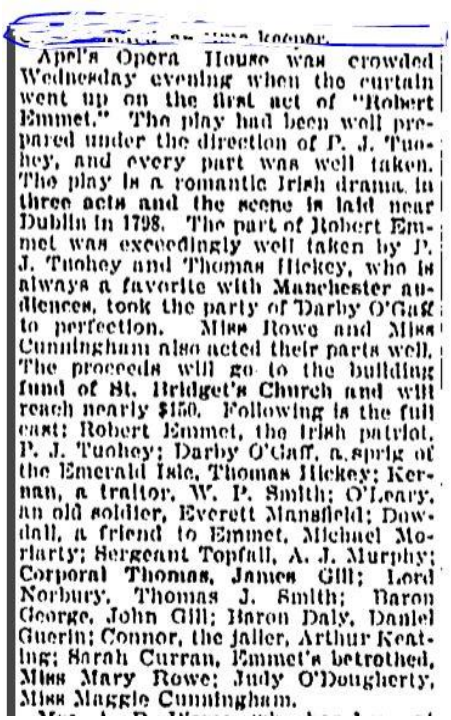
Mrs. A. R. Pierce, who has been at the point of death for many weeks, died at her home in Oakland Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Pierce was a Virginian by birth and came of an old family. She came here in the seventies and with her husband had conducted the leading millinery and fancy goods store in town for a number of years. Her funeral was attended at her late home yesterday afternoon.

A party of eleven young people went by bus to Andover Wednesday evening and enjoyed a hop at the town hall. Later in the evening they were entertained at the home of Miss Clement, who went to Andover last fall.

There will be two games of basketball at the armory to-night. The first one will be between the high school juniors and the Y. M. C. A. juniors of Hartford. The second game will be one for blood between the high school team and the Asylum Hills of Hartford.

The local branch of the Connecticut Building & Loan Association will be formed next Wednesday evening. About 500 shares have been taken in town.

Pertinent excerpt:



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Contemporary photos of Apel's Opera House by Susan Barlow, for the Manchester Historical Society.

The plaque in the middle of the wall says B.C. Apel 1888.